

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 SAM-01 /036 W

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P 081437Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9777

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, IT

1. MINISTER UMBERTO LA ROCCA, COORDINATOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
IN MFA, TOOK INITIATIVE TO RAISE WITH EMBOFF GENERAL SUBJECT OF
LIAISON BETWEEN USG AND GOI DURING ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF EEC
COUNCIL. LA ROCCA SAID THAT BRITISH FONMIN CALLAGHAN (DURING HIS
RECENT VISIT TO ROME) HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ITALIAN FONMIN
RUMOR SEEK IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE SECRETARY IN ORDER TO CREATE APPROPRIATE CLIMATE FOR
GENUINE CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. (NOTE SIMILAR
COMMENT IN DUBLIN 1177 PARA 1 (F). LA ROCCA SAID THAT MFA
BELIEVES IT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR RUMOR TO HAVE FREQUENT
ENCOUNTERS WITH SECRETARY DURING PERIOD OF ITALIAN PRESIDENCY.
WHILE HE SEES NO POSSIBILITY FOR MEETING EARLY IN JULY, HE THINKS
THAT RUMOR CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF GOING TO WASHINGTON
SHORTLY AFTER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING JULY 19/21. (ROME 9597) RUMOR WILL BE ENGAGED WITH EEC
MINISTERS MEETING AND OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CLOSE AND CONSTANT
LIAISON AND CONSULTATION WITH EC/NINE THROUGH PRESIDENCY, I STRONGLY
RECOMMEND THAT RUMOR BE INVITED TO GO TO WASHINGTON IN LATE JULY TO
MEET WITH SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. IF MUTUALLY CON-
VENIENT DATE CANNOT BE FOUND FOR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, I WOULD HOPE
THAT EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO FIND SOME OTHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME
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AND PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. NOTE: ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY NOT

CERTAIN. IT NOW APPEARS REASONABLY LIKELY THAT PRESENT MORO GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE DURING MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR. RUMOR IS, THEREFORE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AS FOREIGN MINISTER FOR MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME09777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0445
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750777/aaaacqls.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS : MINISTER UMBERTO LA ROCCA
TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, EEC, (LA ROCCA, UMBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006